

FOIAb3b

Castro Puts Stiff Price On Departures to U. S.

CPYRGHT

HAVANA, Dec. 25 (UPI)—Premier Fidel Castro switched signals today and told relatives of ransomed invasion prisoners that if they want to go to the United States they must buy their way out of Cuba with their homes and automobiles.

The new regulations came after some of the relatives had been cleared for boarding the African Pilot, scheduled to sail for Miami at 6 p. m. EST Wednesday. The ship's captain, Alfred Boerum, said he could take 1000 relatives back with him.

The switch in regulations meant that some relatives had to get off the ship and give up their places to others.

Refugee sources said a second ship would come to Havana within a week to take more relatives out.

Government offices had been jammed with hundreds of relatives seeking permission to leave Cuba since Castro first announced he would allow mothers, wives and children of ransomed prisoners to board the ship.

Only applications from immediate relatives were considered.

Besides turning over homes

Invasion leader pledges new effort to topple Castro regime. Page A5.

Re-enactment of Florida home-coming scenes expected if Cuba releases 23 U. S. prisoners. Page A5.

and automobiles, if any, to the Cuban government, the new regulations require relatives to submit evidence that they have paid all their urban reform bills and to supply the government with two recent photographs.

The relatives were notified to be at the pier where the African Pilot, which brought to Cuba tons of drugs and medicines used to buy freedom for the prisoners, is tied up.

The ship had planned to sail at noon, but authorities said because of the number of persons seeking to board the

ship it probably could not sail before 6 p. m. ming government offices skyrocketed.

Representatives of the American and Cuban Red Cross met during the morning with the skipper of the ship to coordinate the trip.

Maj. Gilberto Cervantes, chief of the Cuban Red Cross, was accompanied by Maj. Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, Cuban Minister of Health.

The Cuban Red Cross agreed to assist the ship's crew in taking passengers and luggage aboard and to supply the African Pilot with food and a milk ration for children.

The ship did not carry enough food for the 1000 passengers it is expected to have on its return trip.

Castro first announced that relatives could obtain an exit permit from Cuba if they presented proof that they were part of the immediate families of invasion prisoners.

Then the offer was changed to exclude all but parents, brothers, wives and sons when the number of people jam-

ming government offices skyrocketed. There were still so many people that the government once more changed signals — to exclude all but those who had a valid passport and U. S. visa waivers.

Today, during the confusion surrounding the clamor for passage on the ship, the government ditched all previous directives and said the prospective passengers must comply with the new orders—turn over homes and automobiles to the government, and take only a certain amount of clothes out of the country.

The Red Cross announced that a doctor and four nurses from the United States would arrive Wednesday morning to help women, children and elderly persons on the voyage.

Several American Red Cross officers who arrived on the African Pilot plan to remain in Cuba to await the second ship — which might be the African Pilot returning for another load of refugees.